Accessing Census Bureau Statistics: Population Estimates and Projections for the United States

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Overview

- What are estimates and projections?
- What estimates and projections do we produce?
- Why do we produce them?
- How are they produced?
- When are they available?
- Where can you find them?



What are estimates and projections?

Estimates

- For the present and the past
- Produced using administrative records and other data
- The official measures of population and housing units between censuses
 - Monthly and Annual (July 1) for each year after the last published census

Projections

- Estimates for future dates
- Produced by making assumptions about future trends
- Use the latest published census or estimates as a base



What estimates data do we produce?

Resident population

- Totals
 - National, state, county, sub-county, and Puerto Rico Commonwealth and municipios
- Demographic characteristics
 - National, state, and county
 - Age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin
 - Puerto Rico Commonwealth and municipios
 - Age and sex

Other data

- Components of change
 - · Births, deaths, and migration
- Housing units
- Population universes
 - Resident plus armed forces overseas, civilian, and civilian noninstitutionalized



Why do we produce estimates? Federal Mandate

The Intercensal Estimates Program is required under U.S.C. Title 13, Section 181:

"During the intervals between each census of population...the Secretary, to the extent feasible, should annually produce and publish for each State, county, and local unit of general purpose government which has a population of fifty thousand or more, current data on total population and population characteristics and, to the extent feasible, shall biennially produce and publish for other local units of general purpose government current data on total population."



Why do we produce estimates? Data Uses

- Allocation of federal funds
- Controls for federal surveys
 - Current Population Survey (CPS)
 - American Community Survey (ACS)
 - Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP)
 - American Housing Survey (AHS)



Why do we produce estimates? Data Uses (cont.)

- Denominators for statistical rates
 - Birth and death rates
 - National Center for Health Statistics
 - Per capita income
 - Bureau of Economic Analysis
- Program Planning
 - Location of public and private services



How do we produce estimates?

National level:

Cohort-component method

$$P_2 = P_1 + B - D + NIM$$

where: $P_1 = Population at time 1$

 P_2 = Population at time 2

B = Births D = Deaths

NIM = Net international migration

State and county level:

Component of change method

$$P_2 = P_1 + B - D + NM$$

(controlled to the national estimates)

Subcounty level:

Distributive housing unit method

County population is distributed to subcounty parts based on updated estimates of housing units



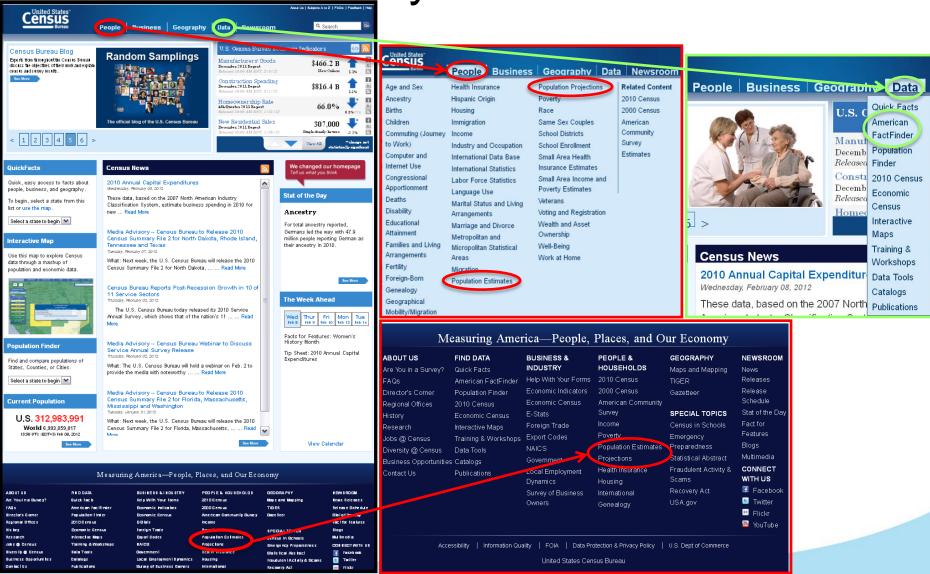
When are estimates data available?

- 2010 Census data are being released now
- Preliminary Schedule for July 2011 Estimates:

Release Date	Product
December 2011	National and state totals (including Puerto Rico)
January 2012	State age 18+
April 2012	County and Puerto Rico municipio totals
May 2012	National, state, county, and Puerto Rico demographic detail
June 2012	Subcounty totals
June 2012	State and county housing units

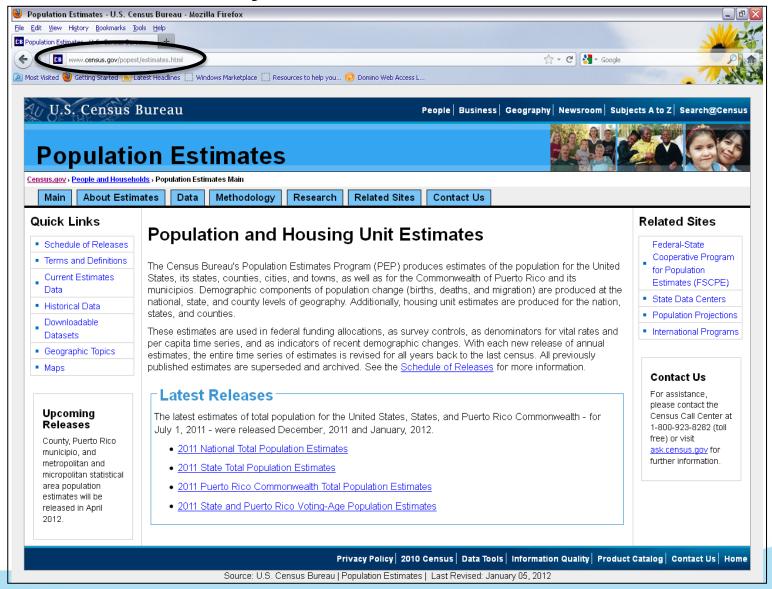


Where can you find the data?



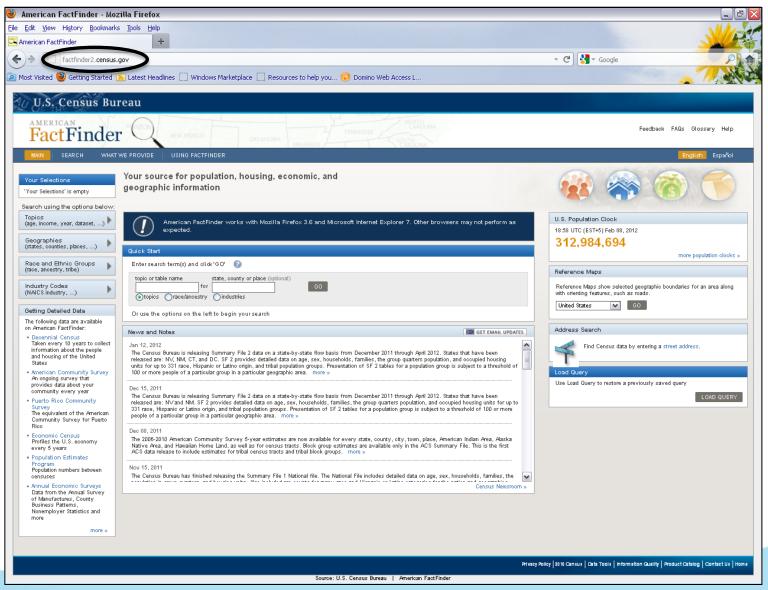


Where can you find estimates data?





Where can you find estimates data?





What projections data do we produce?

- Resident population
 - Demographic characteristics
 - National and state
 - Age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin
- Other measures
 - Components of change
 - Births, deaths, and migration



Why do we produce projections? Data Uses

- Used as inputs by other federal agencies
 - Health measures
 - National Institute on Aging
 - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
 - National Cancer Institute
 - Group-specific measures
 - Bureau of Labor Statistics
- Used broadly by the public and private sectors, as well as academia, for resource planning and research



How do we produce projections?

National level:

Cohort-component method

- Rates of components of change are projected separately for each birth cohort
 - Births, deaths, and net international migration
- Base population is advanced each year by applying the projected rates

State level:

Cohort-component method

- Current rates are calculated and projected assuming nationallevel change
- Controlled to the national projections

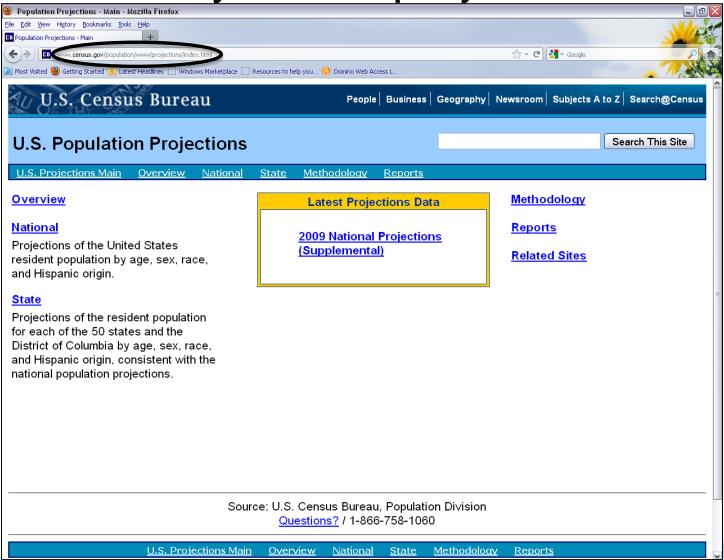


What projections data are available?

Release Date	Product
1996	State projections
2005	Interim state projections
2008	National projections
2009	National projections (alternative migration scenarios)
2012 (anticipated)	National projections



Where can you find projections data?





Exercises

Estimates

- 1. What is the most recent population estimate for Wyoming?
- 2. What is the most recent population estimate for Prince George's County, Maryland?
- 3. What is the most recent population estimate for Los Angeles City, California?
- 4. Where can you find national population estimates by race?
- 5. Where can you find historical state population estimates?

Projections

- 1. What is the population of the nation projected to be in 2050?
- 2. What is the population of the nation projected to be in 2020 under the assumption of low net international migration?



Web Address and Contact Information

Web Address for Estimates and Projections:

http://www.census.gov/popest/estimates.html

http://www.census.gov/population/www/projections/index.html

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Thank you!

